

Generating Data for Monitoring and Reporting Sustainable Development Goals in Zanzibar

Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) refers to the process of defining, implementing, and monitoring strategies at the local level to achieve global, national, and subnational sustainable development goals and targets.

In September 2019, the UN Secretary-General called on all sectors of society to mobilize for a decade of action to deliver the promises of the SDGs by 2030. In many ways, achieving the SDGs is directly linked to the capacity of local and regional governments to ensure access to basic services that underpin the quality of life.

In December 2016, the Office of the Chief Government Statistician (OCGS) in Zanzibar, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), assessed the availability of baseline information. The results showed that 34 indicators had partial baseline information, and 159 indicators across all 17 goals did not have baseline data. The assessment also uncovered other challenges, including the unavailability of baseline data through existing data sources, administrative data systems, censuses, and surveys.

To address this data gap, in 2021, the International Labour Organization (ILO) supported the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar through the OCGS to review and develop the administrative data collection tools; analyse the available surveys, including the Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS), Household Budget Survey (HBS) and Integrated Labour Force Survey (ILFS) and develop metadata for the 117 of the localized SDGs indicators.

Through this support, a Guideline for Computing SDGs Indicators has been



produced. This guideline provides definitions of indicators and methodologies on how to compute the indicators. The guideline will increase the production of timely and quality data for monitoring SDGs indicators, thus reducing the data gap for SDG reporting.

The guideline document also presents the statistics on key indicators for the labour market and some SDG indicators related to labour. This will help to inform policy decisions and help guide developmental support, that uncovers important challenges and opportunities for the local implementation of the SDGs that relate to the broader themes of advocacy, action, and monitoring for Zanzibar.


A predominant finding during the revision and development of the metadata is the lack of awareness of computation of key labour market and related SDGs indicators. The guideline will thus assist users in understanding how the key labour market and related SDG indicators were computed and how SDG localization can be practically, efficiently, and effectively implemented in what remains of the Decade of Action.



While the current pandemic may have set back parts of the progress made on the 2030 Agenda and made the delivery of services more difficult, this guide raises awareness of the need for and importance of generating data for localized actions and reporting at the local level.

Moreover, through the Office of the Chief Government Statistician and the Zanzibar Planning Commission, this effort has resulted in the development of data collection tools for related SDG indicators for other sectors such as the agriculture sector.

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